

## **State seeks company to pilot Air Cargo Ramp project**

*Winning bidder would construct, finance expansion at Dover Air Force Base*

**DOVER, Del.** (April 28, 2014) – Plans to expand the existing Civil Air Terminal at Dover Air Force Base are now closer to lift off, as a formal Request for Proposals has been issued to identify a bidder that will take on the project.

The State of Delaware is seeking turnkey proposals for the Air Cargo Ramp expansion project, which will provide a major boost to Delaware's economy, improving the capacity and efficiency of one of the state's key infrastructure assets while also bringing new revenue and jobs to the growing aviation industry.

"Bringing business and revenue to the state requires a strong transportation infrastructure. This project will enhance one of our greatest assets, Dover Air Force Base, by giving it the ability to handle large air freighters," Gov. Jack Markell said. "We applaud our state and local officials for coming together to bring this vital project to the bidding stage."

The project will accommodate parking for large civilian air cargo carriers that serve DAFB; the parking needs of the occasional civilian charter aircraft; and aircraft for NASCAR for two race weekends (eight total days) annually. The project would ideally provide parking space for up to four fully loaded Boeing 747 or equivalent size cargo aircraft simultaneously.

The State of Delaware's goal is to enter into a long-term lease/development agreement with an organization or group of organizations with the capability of designing, constructing, financing, operating and maintaining the expanded facility at no cost to and returning the highest value to the state and Dover AFB.

The RFP was issued through the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO), in cooperation with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Kent County Levy Court (Kent County) and Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). Details on the RFP can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://de.gov/4z1>.

The expanded facility would have additional capabilities when it is not being fully utilized for Air Force operations. Using the base's state-of-the-art runway and navigation systems, the facility could potentially be used for other aviation related activities such as an aircraft maintenance facility, cargo facility or other uses compatible with Dover AFB operations.

"Aviation is a growing sector in Delaware, with several companies expanding and looking to bring in more business. This goal will be assisted through the upgrading of the Air Cargo Ramp, which will in turn create more jobs that pay well," said Alan Levin, Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office. "Dover Air Force Base continues to be one of the most important economic engines for Delaware, and this project will make it stronger."

**All questions or communications from Proposers must be directed to:**

Jeffrey L. Stone

Director, Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Relations Delaware Economic Development Office, 99 Kings Highway

Dover, DE 19901

[DEDO.DAFB.Project@state.de.us](mailto:DEDO.DAFB.Project@state.de.us)

**Additional quotes:**

"Infrastructure investments like this one play a vital role in growing our economy by connecting people, goods and services more efficiently. This is a good example of yet another partnership between local, state, and federal government. This project will strengthen the economy in central Delaware, save taxpayer dollars, and improve the air quality in and around Delaware by allowing civilian air cargo aircraft to park overnight versus making multiple flights to accomplish their operation. Dover Air Force Base is a linchpin in our state's economy and this project will make it stronger." – Sen. Tom Carper.

"The transportation of cargo by air is part of Dover's DNA. Overnight parking for civilian cargo aircraft landing on Dover Air Force Base's runways will create new economic opportunities for our state. The construction of the new facility alone will create good jobs as well. I'm excited about what this project could mean for our state's economic infrastructure and hope Delaware-based firms submit bids to be a part of it." – Sen. Chris Coons.

"The Delaware Department of Transportation has looked at different business initiatives to expand the economic development opportunities for the Civil Air Terminal and Kent County. These include air cargo expansion, possible airline service operations, an overnight parking area, and continued support of NASCAR activities, among others." – Transportation Secretary Shailen Bhatt.

"When the Air Cargo Ramp is complete and the jobs are created, it will be one of the greatest economic impacts to the State of Delaware in the last 25 years." – Honorable P. Brooks Banta, President and First District Commissioner, Kent County Levy Court.

**About the Delaware Economic Development Office**

The Delaware Economic Development Office is an executive state agency responsible for attracting new investors and businesses to the state, promoting the expansion of existing industry, assisting small and minority-owned businesses, promoting and developing tourism and creating new and improved employment opportunities for all citizens of the State. Visit [dedo.delaware.gov](http://dedo.delaware.gov).

**Contact:**

Peter Bothum

Delaware Economic Development Office

[peter.bothum@state.de.us](mailto:peter.bothum@state.de.us)

Office: 302-672-6857

Cell: 302-632-6665